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investigation of facts, as they are, is advocated, as a medium to a better mutual understanding.

DAVID H. BUEL.

Seistan: A Memoir of the History, Topography, Ruins, and People of the Country. By G. P. Tate. Part 4: The People of Seistan. pp. 273-378. Ills., index. Superintendent Government Printing, Calcutta, India, 1912. 12s. 12 x 9½.

The author does not profess to deal with the problems of desiccation. In fact, he is sedulous to avoid entrance upon that theme of great geographical controversy. He pictures husbandmen working their fields under ditch and utilizing every last trickle of the precious water. He presents bucolic nomads following the recession of the waters of the pools as they evaporate under the summer sun, pitching their tents so near the water's edge that they have to build dikes to keep out the waves if the wind should arise. The water is the prime consideration of the Tajik, the Jat, the Gujar and the Ahir peoples of Seistan. Need has made hydraulic engineers, for the life of the community depends on their skill. They are their own instruments of precision in running levels. A man lies on his back and looks over his eyebrows, the point of land which he can see when in this position will give him a flow of water. Without attempting the solution of the question Mr. Tate notes the several arguments which bear upon the identification of the Jats of Seistan with the Getæ and Massagetæ of classical geography. Students of Aryan philology will note with interest his suggestion of a relation between the name *pago* applied to the Seistani farm holdings and the Latin *pagus* whence we have our pagan.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

The Political Development of Japan, 1867-1909. By George E. Ueyehara. Series: Studies in Economics and Political Science. xxiv and 296 pp. Index. Constable & Co., London, 1910. 8s. 6d. 9 x 6.

A constitutional history of Japan, written in English by a Japanese, and offered and accepted as a thesis for the degree of Doctor in Science in the Faculty of Economics of the University of London. The Japanese mind is represented as giving to the Mikado in the Japanese world, the position accorded to the Supreme Being in the Christian system. Everything in the Japanese world comes from the Mikado, everything subsists in him, nothing in Japan exists independent of him. He is the sole owner of the country, the author of its religion, law, justice, privilege and honor, the symbol of the Japanese nation. No Japanese sceptic has ever arisen to question this Japanese dogma. It is asserted that this Japanese view-point is the key to the constitutional history of Japan. To it is due the present day Japanese bureaucratic government, built on the Prussian model, an aristocratic oligarchy disguised under the veil of constitutional forms. The attempt of the last twenty-five years to put off Oriental ways, and put on the civilization of the West, sprang from racial pride, which led Japan to chafe at having its customs and its legal treatment of foreigners managed from without, and made it glad to undergo everything to place itself among the great world powers.

DAVID H. BUEL.

AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA

The Subanu: Studies of a Sub-Visayan Mountain Folk of Mindanao. 236 pp. Maps, index. Part 1: Ethnographical and Geographical Sketch of Land and People, by Lieut.-Col. John Park Finley, U. S. A.; Part 2: Discussion of the Linguistic Material, by William Churchill; Part 3: Vocabularies. Carnegie Institution, Washington, D. C., 1913.

Col. Finley resided many years at Zamboanga as Governor of the Moro Province of the Philippines. The southern end of the Subanu geographic range comes down to the municipality of Zamboanga, and that town is their chief market. It is also the place where they came into contact with the Spaniards and the Americans.

Col. Finley presents a brief history of the tribe, whose tribal name means

"river dwellers." He discusses the home land, and pictures primitive barter as carried on between the Subanu and Mohammedan peoples when they first came to the coast about 1380. There were 47,164 Subanu in 1912. They are culturally only slowly modified, and, the author says, the chief reason is that they lack curiosity. Very slow Mohammedanization of the pagan Subanu is going on, and in the process one may study how the five extensive Moro, or Mohammedan, tribes were transformed from pagans by a handful of proselyting Arabs. The Subanu are farmers ignorant of economic processes, yet so far successful that for 300 years the hillmen fed not only themselves but also the fierce parasitical coastal Moros, and the Christian Spaniards during the years they were in Zamboanga. Their chief agricultural products are rice, maize, camotes (sweet potatoes), tobacco, and casava, from which they produce tapioca. Though they do not cultivate sago palms, they gather the food from wild trees. Bananas, papayas, pineapples and a few other fruits are frequently grown for food. The Subanu are chiefly vegetarians, but they resort to food of fish, fowl, wild hog and deer when other food is scarce. They are peace-loving people who build their dwellings in hidden places for safety. There is a unique family independence, and to this fact the author says is due the failure of both Spaniards and Americans to gather the scattered Subanu into towns. The families are polygamous, yet "polyandry is occasionally resorted to where men are too poor to provide the *laxa* (dowry) required to secure a wife"; two men then join in the purchase of one wife. They practice a strict and efficient quarantine against the spread of such infectious diseases as smallpox, cholera, and measles. They are devoutly religious, are animists, and have practiced human sacrifice.

Mr. Churchill's part of the book has two purposes: One, to pass under critical review the validity of the so-called Malayo-Polynesian family of speech, as advocated by Bopp; second, to throw what additional light might be upon the origin and early development of human speech.

On the first point his conclusions are that the study of the Malayan Subanu vocabulary reveals no evidence of the existence of a Malayo-Polynesian speech family. The Malayan language is agglutinative; while the Polynesian is isolating. Each contains words of the other. Mr. Churchill believes he has added another proof of the non-existence of that dual language family. His explanation of the existence of words common to the two peoples is given on page 172, as follows:

Preceding the Christian era the Polynesian peoples occupied, more or less completely, the islands of the Malay archipelago, probably then, as now, being coast dwellers. While in that position, the swarming Malaysians overran the islands from the Asiatic coast. They had superior culture, and eventually drove the Polynesians eastward. In the western part of Malaysia the first stragglers of the Malayan swarm, few in numbers, and so not dangerous to the Polynesians, would be assimilated in speech and habits by the Polynesians. Later, when the irresistible Malayan invasion reached these people, "this body of naturalized Polynesian Malays would be the first to feel the attack and would scatter wherever their fleets could carry them; yet, as soon as peace was made, they would prove readily assimilable [again] with their parent Malayan stock. This provides a sufficient explanation why we find the most archetypal Malay at points so sundered as the Malagasy of Madagascar, the Punans, Klemantans, and Kayans of North Borneo, and several tribes of the Philippines, and why, in conjunction with the most archaic Malay, we find equally the purest preservation of the Polynesian."

On the second point, that of the origin and early development of human speech, Mr. Churchill concludes, on page 173, as follows: "Only set the Polynesian speech free from the hindrance and the misleading of the Malayan association, and the students of speech may press bravely on to the discovery of the beginnings of man speech."

He begins with the hypothesis that "the unmixed vowel is the whole speech of the beast," and that it is by the consonantal sounds, the various "stops" preceding, following, and infixing the beastial vowel sounds, that man learns to adapt the speech of the beast to his own developing vocal needs. The backward trail Mr. Churchill follows is from the most highly developed *analytic*

type of language to its beginnings in *inflectional* language, from that to its beginnings in *agglutinative* language, and from that to its beginnings in the still simpler *isolating* language. In that isolating language he penetrates to the *monosyllabic* type of vowel sounds stopped by consonants. "It is there," Mr. Churchill says, "that speech begins."

Here certain other students of language development take serious issue with Mr. Churchill. They derive both the isolating and the inflectional language from the agglutinative.

Vowel sounds are few in beastial speech, Mr. Churchill says. Speech is varied and becomes human not so much by addition of vowel sound as by the invention of "stops" or consonants. The labial nasal *m* is everywhere present in Subanu. "There is abundant reason to regard this consonant as the earliest acquisition of man and the foundation of human speech." Next the lingual nasal *n* is common; while the next most common is the palatal nasal *ng*. Those easy nasal stops are the first invented; "next after the easy nasals the speech-power passes to the ultimate attainment of the mutes—the labial *b*, *p* sounds, the lingual *d*, *t* sounds, and the palatal *g*, *k* sounds. After which various intermediate sounds are acquired. "It is in regard to these intermediate positions that we estimate the development of languages as a matter of evolutionary history."

Mr. Churchill finds that the Subanu vocabulary further confirms the conclusions his earlier studies of Polynesian and Melanesian languages suggested to him—*viz.*, the route along which man passed in the development of consonant sounds making human speech out of earlier beast speech.

Mr. Churchill's effort in the second phase of this study to get back to the beginnings of human speech is especially praiseworthy. Too few students of primitive culture are interested in cultural beginnings. It would be most interesting if Mr. Churchill could more widely test his theory of vowel modification based on his numerous studies in Polynesian, Melanesian, and Malayan languages. For instance, such a test might be made on the language of the Bushman of South Africa, and the unknown language of the Negrito of north-eastern Luzon of the Philippines.

ALBERT ERNEST JENKS,
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EUROPE

The Modern British State. An Introduction to the Study of Civics. By H. J. Mackinder. 270 pp. Index. G. Philip & Son, London, 1914. 1s. 6d. 7½ x 5½.

The author says the book "aims at giving a description of the social organism known as the United Kingdom. It states how existing facts have come to be in order to make their relations clear, but it has nothing to do with the remedies proposed for the misfits which may have developed in the course of recent growth. Both economic and legal phenomena are dealt with, for it is impossible to separate them in a concrete description."

The study of an agricultural village sets forth the subject of production; a countryside, law and order; a market town, bankers and lawyers; a county town, administration; a great railroad, transport; the fish industry of Grimsby, distribution; and, in the same manner, many other topics are treated until the Throne, itself, and its relations to the State are discussed.

The book is intended as an introduction to the study of Civics. It is the sixth book in Mackinder's series—*Elementary Studies in Geography and History*. Though the topics are treated in an elementary manner, Mackinder writes with so charming a style that the work may well be read with interest by adults as well as by young students.

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

Our Island History. An Elementary Study in History. By H. J. Mackinder. (*Elementary Studies in Geography and History*). 320 pp. Maps, illus., index. G. Philip & Son, London, 1914. 2s. 7½ x 5½.

This book, a history of England, comes second in Mackinder's series—*Elementary Studies in Geography and History*.